

Give Honey Bees a Helping Hand

Yes, Honey Bees Are in Trouble...

Bees and other pollinator populations are declining. To learn more about this decline, visit this National Academy of Sciences web site:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11761

Researchers are working hard to understand why this is so and while the puzzle is far from complete, what we do know some of the reasons why honey bee and other bee pollinators are in decline:

- introduced parasitic mites
- diseases, some transmitted by mites
- reduced food and nutrition (nectar and pollen) sources
- pesticide overuse and misuse
- Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html>



But You Can Give Honey Bees a Helping Hand! Here's How:

- Buy LOCAL honey from a LOCAL beekeeper and get to know your local beekeeper! To find a local PA beekeeper through a local beekeeping association near you, visit [http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/Reports/Map/Contacts and Inspectors.htm](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/Reports/Map/Contacts%20and%20Inspectors.htm)
- PLANT A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN. Learn how by visiting <http://maarec.psu.edu/GeneralPublicInfo.html>
- USE PESTICIDES ONLY WHEN NEEDED, with great care and always according to label instructions. Take the time to learn about and use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at, <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/1445.htm>
- CONSIDER BECOMING A BEEKEEPER! Learn how by visiting the PA State Beekeeper's Association website <http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org>
- LEARN MORE about where your food comes from and the important role pollinators play.

Other Resources:

PSBA and local PA associations - <http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org>
Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium - <http://MAAREC.psu.edu>
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign - <http://www.nappc.org>
The Center for Pollinator Research - <http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators>

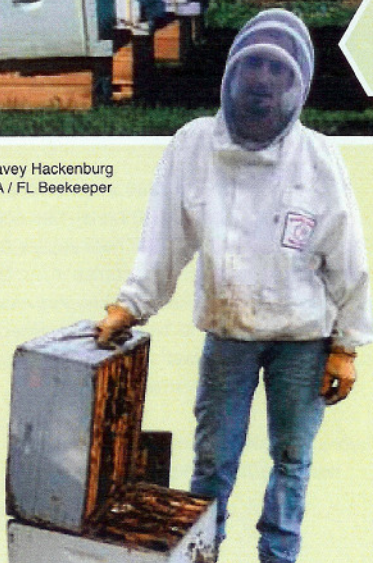


To learn more or become a member of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association, contact secretary, Yvonne Crimbring RD 1, Box 5660 • Canton, PA 17724-9753 • pabee@epix.net

Tom McCormack
PA Beekeeper



Davey Hackenburg
PA / FL Beekeeper



When it comes to our food supply, honey bees have been giving US a helping hand for a long time. Pollination is necessary before many plants can produce their fruits (and vegetables) nuts and seeds. The USDA estimates that about one-third of the food we eat comes from insect-pollinated plants and that honey bees are responsible for 80 percent of this pollination. Apples, blueberries, almonds, pumpkins and watermelons are just a few of the more than 100 crops pollinated by honey bees. Our agricultural system today is more dependent than ever on bees and beekeepers that migrate from crop to crop to provide their pollination services to farmers.



McCormack Apiaries
Aliquippa, PA

To learn just how critical honey bee pollinators are visit:
[http://www.utahcountybeekeepers.org/OtherFiles/InformationArticles/Value of Honey Bees as Pollinators Report.pdf](http://www.utahcountybeekeepers.org/OtherFiles/InformationArticles/ValueofHoneyBeesasPollinatorsReport.pdf)



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In the 1980's there were more than 80,000 honey bee colonies in Pennsylvania. Today 2,000 beekeepers now manage around 40,000 honey bee colonies in the State. Many are members of the PA State Beekeepers Association. If you are a beekeeper, want to become a beekeeper or are just interested in the health and welfare of honey bees and our food supply, please consider joining us!

Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association
www.pastatebeekeepers.org